

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 7-8 have been amended as to form.

Claims 1-2 and 6-10 were rejected as anticipated by RAVERDY et al. 2002/0069419 A1 and claims 3-5 rejected as unpatentable over RAVERDY et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

RAVERDY et al. disclose a video-on-demand system that includes a server 138, a program source 722 and user devices 114a,b. The system receives demands for programs from individual users after they login. One of the problems with the system in RAVERDY et al. is that demands for a program from a plurality of individual users can inundate the network and generate unpredictable traffic loads on the server. The present invention seeks to avoid these problems by using an application form to schedule a showing of one or more requested programs at a site with a screen viewable by a public audience. That is, the invention includes an application for service by a site with a screen for a public audience instead of a demand for service by plural individual users. The operator of the server can avoid overloading the network by controlling the number of accepted applications, which in any event are already reduced by using a receiving site with a screen for a public audience.

More specifically, RAVERDY et al. do not disclose that each receiving site, which has a screen for a public audience, transmits a request and, in return, receives a blank application

form that the receiving site returns filled-in to request access to a particular program. The server maps the requested program in a memory and distributes the program to the receiving site until the scheduled closing time of the program.

The Official Action refers to the exchange of relevant information disclosed in RAVERDY et al. (paragraph 0040). However, within the context of the demand system of RAVERDY et al., one of skill in the art would not learn from this that the exchange of relevant information would include a blank application form from a site with a screen viewable by a public audience, to thereby control and limit traffic on the network.

Accordingly, the claims avoid the rejections under §102 and §103.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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